

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for preventing unnecessary battery run-down, comprising:
 - an output device, for presenting a media data stream;
 - a communication port configured for communicatively linking with the output device; and
 - a controller communicatively coupled to the communication port, for controlling output of the media data stream, said controller configured to execute a program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions causes the controller to:
 - detect the existence of a communicative link between the output device and the communication port;
 - pause output of the media data stream to the output device after a first time period, if no communicative link exist between the output device and the communication port; and
 - shut down operation of an electronic device including the system after a second time period, if no communication link exists between the output and the communication port, said second time period being of a longer duration than said first time period,

wherein the system minimizes the amount of energy consumed by the electronic device.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the media data stream is an audio presentation.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a display communicatively coupled to said controller, wherein said controller is additionally configured so as to indicate the absence of the output device on the display within said first time

period, if no communication link is detected between the output device and the communication port.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is additionally configured to output the media data stream upon establishment of a communicative link between the output device and the communication port within either of said first or said second time periods.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the output device is a pair of headphones and the communication port is a one-eighth inch mini-connector plug jack.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the output device and the communication port link via a wireless connection.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the output device and the communication connection link via a Bluetooth connection.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is implemented in at least one of a compact disk player, a cassette tape player, a portable radio, and a moving pictures experts group audio layer-3 (MP3) player.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is a microprocessor.

10. A method for preventing accidental operation of a battery powered portable audio device, comprising the steps of:
 - detecting the existence of a communicative link between an output device and a communication port included in the portable audio device;
 - pausing output of an audio data stream to the output device after a first time period, if no communicative link exist between the output device and the communication port; and
 - shutting-down operation of the portable audio device after a second time period, if no communication link exists between the output and the communication port, said second time period being of a longer duration than said first time period.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of displaying an indication of the absence of the output device within said first time period on a display included in the portable audio device, if no communication link is detected between the output device and the communication port.
12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of, outputting the audio data stream upon establishment of a communicative link between the output device and the communication port within either of said first or said second time periods.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein the output device is a pair of headphones and the communication port is a one-eight inch mini-connector plug jack.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein the output device and the communication port link via a wireless connection.
15. The method of claim 10, wherein the output device and the communication connection link via a Bluetooth connection.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the portable audio device is at least one of a compact disk player, a cassette tape player, a portable radio, and a moving pictures experts group audio layer-3 (MP3) player.

17. A portable battery powered audio device, comprising:
 - an output device, for presenting an audio data stream; and
 - means for controlling the output of an audio data stream communicatively coupled to the output device, wherein the controlling means
 - detects the existence of a communicative link between the output device and the controlling means;
 - pauses output of the media data stream to the output device after a first time period, if no communicative link exist between the output device and the controlling means; and
 - shuts down operation of an electronic device including the system after a second time period, if no communication link exists between the output and the controlling means, said second time period being of a longer duration than said first time period;

wherein the battery powered audio minimizes the amount of energy consumed when the output device is not communicatively linked to the controlling means.
18. The device of claim 17, wherein the portable battery powered audio device is at least one of a compact disk player, a cassette tape player, a portable radio, and a moving pictures experts group audio layer-3 (MP3) player.
19. The device of claim 17, further comprising means for indicating output device status.
20. The device of claim 17, wherein a communication link is at least one of a one eighth inch mini-connector and a bluetooth wireless connection.